

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to specify that the impermeable layer is a combustibile impermeable layer. The change is directed to a preferred embodiment supported in the specification at page 9, lines 24 and 25. The specification at page 10, lines 1 to 3, indicates why a combustibile impermeable layer is used, namely, that it is easy to remove that layer by a thermal process following placement of a catalyst carrier in the ceramic honeycomb structure, at which time the impermeable layer is no longer required.

The rejection of claims 1 to 5 and 10 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437 in view of Rosynsky et al. '864, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Initially, applicants respectfully submit that the references are not properly combinable. Sussmilch et al. '437 is directed to an encasement machine and its operation, and shows a particular type of exhaust processor body having contained therein an end cap 142. Fig. 9 of the reference shows that the end of mat 30 is located at the same position as the

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end of the ceramic honeycomb substrate 28, and contacts directly to the end face of end cap 142.

Rosynsky et al. '864 shows a catalytic apparatus having a plug (or end member) 45 placed longitudinally to compress a resilient member 42 within space 36 of casing 12. The patentees indicate at various lines of column 6 (see lines 1 to 5, 33 to 35, 60 and 61) that the plug 45 is made of metal in various forms. A consideration of both the primary reference and the secondary reference without benefit of applicants' disclosure would not lead to their combination to meet the limitations of the present invention, which was designed to provide an impermeable layer on a specified portion of the article in order to prevent permeation of a catalyst slurry when the catalyst is coated on the inner portion of the structure. The references collectively have nothing that would suggest their combination.

Moreover, Sussmilch et al. '437 end cap 142 is similar to the cone portion 17 shown in Fig. 3 of the present application. The placement of such an element would clearly interfere with placing a catalyst slurry on the ceramic honeycomb structure at the desired time. End cap 142 is not comparable to plug 45, and would result in the formation of an article contemplated by neither set of patentees.

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Moreover, as previously noted, the claims have been amended to call for the impermeable layer to be a combustible layer, a change that clearly and patentably distinguishes the claims from the art. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejections of the other pending claims under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Sussmilch et al. '437 and Rosynsky et al. '864, in combination with other references (Close et al. '865, Harding '498 and Machida et al. '089) are also respectfully traversed. There is no proper teaching in any of the tertiary references regarding the particular arrangement and material choice recited in claim 1 as amended. The rejection should be withdrawn as well.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned should additional changes be required in the case prior to allowance.

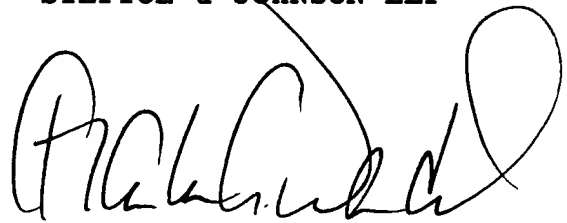
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Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 429-6415

Date: Februar 28, 2006

CAW:cd

Respectfully submitted,
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Charles A. Wendel, is written over the printed name and registration number.

Charles A. Wendel
Registration No. 24,453